

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 26, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 52

Introduced by Senators Huff and Nguyen

*(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, Bates, Block, Hall, Leno, Nielsen,
and Vidak)*

(Coauthors: Assembly Members ~~Chang~~ Chang, Dodd, and Kim)

April 30, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52—Relative to Asian and Pacific
Islander American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 52, as amended, Huff. Asian and Pacific Islander American
Heritage Month.

This measure would recognize May 2015 as Asian and Pacific Islander
American Heritage Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, One of the earliest records of Asian and Pacific
2 Islander Americans in North America dates back to 1763 in what
3 is now known as New Orleans, Louisiana, where Filipino sailors
4 who worked the Manila-Acapulco ~~trade route~~ *Galleon Trade route*
5 settled; and
6 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have made
7 indelible contributions to the history of California and the United
8 States that include, but are not limited to, building the
9 Transcontinental Railroad, serving honorably in the Armed Forces,
10 fighting for the United States in foreign wars, and advocating for
11 civil rights; and

1 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have endured
2 hardships, including unjust working conditions, prejudice, and
3 discrimination, in some of the darkest times in our state's and
4 nation's history, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, naturalized
5 citizenship ineligibility, the Alien Land Law, ~~antimiscegenation~~
6 *Laws, anti-miscegenation* laws, and Japanese internment; and

7 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans continue to
8 cultivate, advance, and lead in the fields of art, fashion, business,
9 technology, education, science, government, law, humanities,
10 medicine, sports, and entertainment; and

11 WHEREAS, California is home to over ~~5.8 million~~ *6 million*
12 Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, more than any other state,
13 and Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are one of the fastest
14 growing ethnic populations in the state and nation; and

15 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans constitute
16 16 percent of California's population and represent diverse
17 ancestries that include, but are not limited to, Asian Indian,
18 Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Burmese, Cambodian, Chamorro,
19 Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Iu-Mien, Iwo
20 Jiman, Guamanian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian,
21 Maldivian, Mongolian, Nepalese, Native Hawaiian, Vietnamese,
22 Okinawan, Pakistani, Samoan, Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Thai,
23 Tongan, and other ancestries that may be traced to various Pacific
24 Islands; and

25 WHEREAS, California's Asian and Pacific Islander American
26 entrepreneurs are innovative and lead many successful businesses
27 to the pinnacle of their respective industries nationally and globally,
28 and own over 500,000 businesses in California; and

29 WHEREAS, The California Commission on Asian and Pacific
30 Islander American Affairs was established in 2004 and is charged
31 with advising the Governor, the Legislature, and state agencies on
32 issues relating to the social and economic development, rights,
33 and interests of California's Asian and Pacific Islander American
34 communities; and

35 WHEREAS, The Legislature has 12 Asian and Pacific Islander
36 Assembly Members and Senators who represent and advocate for
37 the interests of the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander American
38 communities; and

39 WHEREAS, The federal government officially designates May
40 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month; and

1 WHEREAS, Celebrating Asian and Pacific Islander American
2 Heritage Month provides Californians with an opportunity to
3 recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of Asian
4 and Pacific Islander Americans; now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
6 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature commends Asian and
7 Pacific Islander Americans for their notable accomplishments and
8 contributions to California, and recognizes May 2015 as Asian
9 and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
11 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.